
SOUTHWEST

TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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July 1, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

RE: AT&T's application to acquire T-Mobile, the 11-65 proceeding

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This letter is written on behalf of the students and faculty of Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, Tennessee. We are a multicultural, open-access public college, and we seek to foster student success, transform lives, and strengthen the diverse community. Just last month at our commencement ceremony, our graduates were encouraged to leave Southwest and truly "change the world."

It is within your power to provide them a vital mechanism to achieve their goals. The resource I refer to is broadband accessibility. I understand that T-Mobile and AT&T wish to merge, and that their request is under your consideration. What I have heard and read regarding this merger suggests that the outcome could result in AT&T rolling out its 4G LTE network to a larger, more geographically diverse customer base. I also understand that, by combining resources, these providers will offer a more powerful network, one with faster speeds and better data services, along with expanded coverage.

I am confident that these capabilities will prove powerful for Southwest graduates as they return home or move to new Tennessee communities to pursue further education, accept jobs, start families, and contribute to their communities. Students living in rural Tennessee, where broadband historically has been less widely available, will especially appreciate this service. In essence, changing the world will be easier for these graduates with the power of broadband accessibility.

A stronger network will also enable us at Southwest to bolster our educational offerings, and continue to produce students who are eager to make an impact. By improving educator resources and keeping faculty and staff at our branches seamlessly connected, we will undoubtedly discover that improved accessibility and stronger service are a significant advantage for us.

Wireless broadband is crucial to successful education, both within and beyond the classroom. Please give this merger your approval.

Best regards,



Nathan L. Essex
President

CC:
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

<http://www.southwest.tn.edu/events/press-releases/2011/May/press-05-11-11.htm>

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